

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 2, 8, and 11 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) System for the transmission of message traffic in a packet-switched telecommunication system, said system comprising:
  - a network element, which comprises a cross-connection part and a control part, said cross-connection part comprising at least one unit computer, and said control part comprising at least one unit computer,
  - wherein internal message traffic is transmitted within the network element between the unit computers,
  - wherein the system further comprises:
    - at least one unit computer in the cross-connection part whose message traffic is transmitted by utilizing the universal cross-connections conveying the message traffic between the cross-connection part and the control part produced by of the network element itself, said unit computer of the cross-connection part being disposed on a different plug-in unit than the nearest terminal point of the cross-connection it is using for message traffic.

2. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the system further comprises:

at least one unit computer in the control part whose message traffic is transmitted by utilizing the universal cross-connections conveying the message traffic between the cross-connection part and the control part ~~produced by~~ of the network element itself.

3. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the telecommunication system is implemented using asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) based components.

4. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 3, wherein the control part further comprises:

a number of computer units, each one of which comprises a segmentation and reassembly- physical layer (SAR-PHY) circuit pair and a unit computer.

5. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 3, wherein the cross-connection part further comprises:

a number of line interface unit (LIU) units, each one of which comprises a unit computer, a segmentation and reassembly – physical layer (SAR-PHY) circuit pair, a PHY circuit and an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) circuit.

6. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 3, wherein the cross-connection part further comprises:

an ATM switching fabric, which comprises a unit computer, a segmentation and reassembly – physical layer (SAR-PHY) circuit pair and an ATM circuit.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for the transmission of message traffic in a packet-switched telecommunication system, said method comprising:

transmitting internal message traffic within the network element between the unit computers of the cross-connection part and the unit computers of the control part of said element,

wherein the method further comprises:

transmitting the message traffic of at least one unit computer in the cross-connection part by:

establishing a universal cross-connection between the sending unit computer and the receiving unit computer,

transmitting the message traffic from the sending unit computer, said unit computer in question being disposed on a different plug-in unit than the nearest terminal point of the cross-connection it is using for the message traffic,

transmitting the message traffic to the receiving unit computer, and

disconnecting the cross-connection.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

transmitting the message traffic of at least one unit computer of the control part by utilizing the universal cross-connections ~~produced by~~ of the network element itself.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

distributing the functions of the control part among the plug-in units of the cross-connection part.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises:

transmitting message traffic in an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) telecommunication system.

11. (Currently Amended) System for the transmission of message traffic in a packet-switched telecommunication system, said system comprising:

a network element, which comprises a cross-connection part and a control part, said cross-connection part comprising at least one unit computer, and said control part comprising at least one unit computer, and

transmitter means for transmitting internal message traffic within the network element between the unit computers,

wherein the system further comprises:

at least one unit computer in the cross-connection part wherein message traffic is transmitted by utilizing ~~the universal cross-connections~~ conveying the message traffic between the cross-connection part and the control part produced by of the network element, said unit computer of the cross-connection part being disposed on a different plug-in unit than the nearest terminal point of the cross-connection it is using for message traffic.